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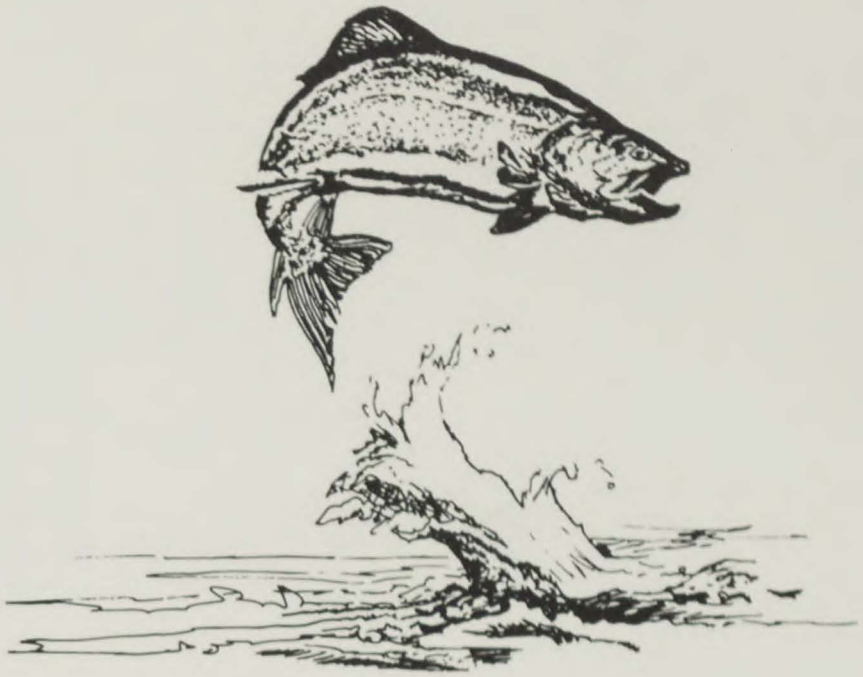
ACTION PLAN

Anadromous Fish Habitat Management on National Forests in Idaho



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service - Northern and Intermountain Regions

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

This Action Plan briefly describes and charts our course in anadromous fish habitat management on National Forests within the State of Idaho. The opportunities and successes will be greatly enhanced by a coordinated effort. We will cooperatively work together to enhance the anadromous resources within the state.

Regional Forester
Intermountain Region
Forest Service

Date 6/20/80

Regional Forester
Northern Region
Forest Service

Date 6/9/80

Director
Idaho Department of Fish
and Game

Date June 11, 1980

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The Idaho Anadromous Fisheries Habitat Program is designed to develop a positive and aggressive anadromous fish habitat management for the Snake River and all tributary waters within the Intermountain and Northern Regions of the Forest Service.

The Upper Snake River Basin in Idaho consists of the main stem Snake River and its major tributary waters, the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers. Approximately 3,358 miles of Idaho's Major streams provide anadromous fish habitat. The Snake River has 108 miles and the Clearwater and Salmon systems contain 1,248 and 1,920 miles respectively. Eight National Forests of the Northern and Intermountain Regions have upriver anadromous fish habitat.

In formulating the anadromous fish habitat management program for National Forests in Idaho, a three-phase approach was agreed to. Phase I is defined as that period of time required to arrest the downward trend of anadromous fisheries habitat. The second segment, Phase II, is defined as that timeframe during which the fisheries habitat is restored to original or natural levels, while Phase III is defined as enhancement of the habitat beyond its original capacity to allow for production to meet increased demands. Also, during Phase III, an effort would be made to reclaim those more seriously depleted streams which were too expensive to restore under Phase II.

This action plan identifies goals and objectives to further the overall anadromous fish habitat management program in Idaho. Individual Forest action programs will be designed to accomplish program objectives for managing the habitat.

POLICY

WASHINGTON
MONTANA
SNAKE
Clearwater
Lochsa River
Lewiston
River
Selway
River
Salmon
RIVER
South Fork
Middle Fork
Lemhi River
Weiser River
Cascade Reservoir
River
Payette
IDAHO
Boise
River
Boise
Big Wood River
Jackson Lake
RIVER
Idaho Falls
Jackson
Anderson Ranch Reservoir
Blackfoot
Palisades Reservoir
American Falls Reservoir
Pocatello
Blackfoot River Reservoir
OREGON
Bruneau River
SNAKE
Twin Falls
Burley
Raft River
WYOMING
Owyhee
River
NEVADA
UTAH

POLICY

It is the policy of the Intermountain and Northern Regions to:

1. Maintain or improve habitat used by anadromous fish species.

2. Consider anadromous fish habitat as a major Forest value in land management planning program formulation, budgeting, and project determination processes.

3. Establish priorities that will maintain anadromous fish stocks, i.e., spawning, rearing, wintering, and adult holding habitat.

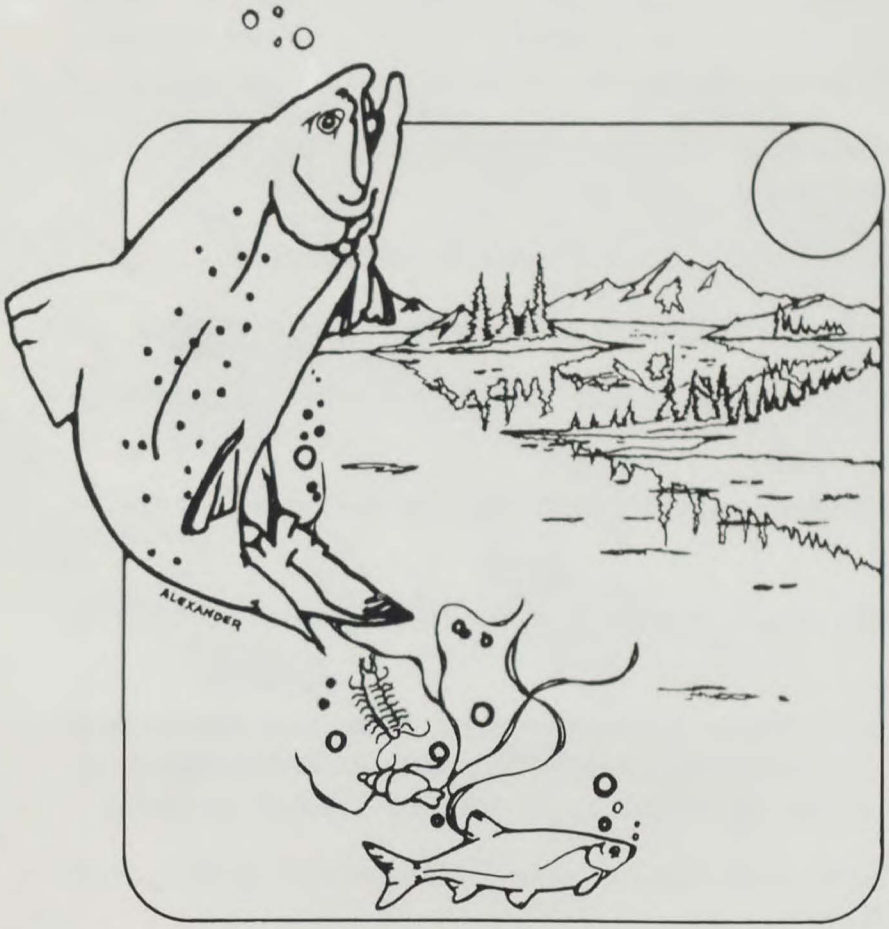
4. Support and propose research designed to produce needed anadromous fish habitat management knowledge.

5. Cooperate and coordinate with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in the management of anadromous fish habitat.

6. Cooperate and coordinate with other Columbia Basin agencies and public groups in the management of anadromous fish resource.

7. Provide technical assistance to private landowners and other agencies in the management of anadromous fish habitat.

ASSUMPTIONS



ASSUMPTIONS

National Forest lands in Idaho comprise the bulk of anadromous fish habitat in the upper Columbia.

Anadromous fish production will continue to provide economic value to both recreation sport fishing and commercial fisheries within and outside Idaho.

Anadromous fisheries management will require greater efforts to protect and manage spawning and rearing habitats and associated watersheds.

Major barriers on the Columbia and Snake Rivers are being corrected and compensated for through efforts of other Federal and State agencies.

Harvest regulations will be managed by State and Federal agencies to increase adult escapement to upriver habitats.

Endangered/threatened status under Federal law is being evaluated for Snake River runs of anadromous fish. More intensive management will be needed if classification occurs.

Research results will come from the Anadromous Fish Habitat Program for the Western U.S.

Present demand for anadromous species exceeds supply.

Value of anadromous fish habitat will continue to increase.

Conflicts between resource uses on Forest lands will continue to intensify.

Demand for anadromous species habitat information will continue to increase.

Funding of anadromous species habitat management programs will increase.

Idaho Forests and Idaho Department of Fish and Game will cooperate and coordinate activities to a greater extent to maintain, perpetuate, and preserve anadromous species habitats in Idaho.

Program will involve cooperation among all agencies dealing with anadromous fish.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOAL A - Maintain the current anadromous fishery habitat capacity by applying the existing knowledge and techniques to management and protect the resource through a professionally credible program.

Objectives

1. Synthesize the present knowledge of anadromous fish and their habitats.

    a. Disseminate chapters of the National Anadromous Fish Program compendium titled "Influence of Forest and Rangeland Management on Anadromous Fish Habitat in Western North America." Apply to Idaho.

    b. Beginning in FY 80, the Regional Office will conduct a literature review and file search of habitat data by anadromous fish species for computer storage and retrieval for management reference.

2. In accordance with Regional standards and by the end of FY 81, Forests shall complete an aquatic habitat action document and update such document as necessary thereafter.

3. Forests will apply the Regional standards of inventory methodology to document status of habitat and distribution of anadromous fish.

4. Assemble working groups in FY 80 to prepare guidelines for a coordinated approach for:

    a. Implementation of an inform and involve plan for the anadromous fish program.

    b. Economic considerations of the anadromous fishery resources statewide and Forest-by-Forest, based on potential as well as current values.

c. Best management practices in logging, road construction, livestock grazing, water quality, water management, sediment management, and management indicator species.

d. Criteria for spawning, rearing, passage (under natural channel conditions), and adult habitat.

e. A monitoring program.

f. Instream flow assessments.

g. Direct habitat improvements.

h. Display format for anadromous fishery information.

i. Handling mining and mineral activities.

GOAL B - Restore and improve anadromous fish habitats that have been impacted by past land use activities.

Objectives

1. Identify and update, annually, anadromous fishery habitat opportunities by Forests, beginning in FY 80 for inclusion in statewide comprehensive plan for fish and wildlife, special programs, and Forest budget.

2. Extend the screen diversion program which began on SNRA in 1979 to all National Forest lands.

3. In FY 81, begin to seek streamflows under State of Idaho appropriation rules and Federal laws.

4. Beginning in FY 80, identify all manmade obstructions to fish migration such as found at culverts, special use dams, velocity and water depth barriers, and natural barriers as outlined in working group guidelines.

5. Develop schedule to correct items found in 4 above.

6. Annually, apply direct habitat improvement measures to restore or improve anadromous fish habitat to its natural capacity considering cost-effective analysis. Work identified in Comprehensive State Plans will have priority.

GOAL C - Increase carrying capacity of anadromous fish on selected Idaho forest streams.

Objectives

1. Establish a working group in FY 81 to prepare guidelines on enhancement opportunities to increase carrying capacity.

2. Incorporate identified enhancement projects into budget proposals annually.

3. Identify anadromous fishery habitat that could be acquired or lost through land acquisition and exchange on an annual basis.

4. By FY 83, implement an action program to restore spawning, rearing, and adult holding habitat on all major impacted areas or those at less than their carrying capacity.

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USDA FOREST SERVICE
ANADROMOUS FISH HABITAT
PROGRAM

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